



Children's Services
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To Staff, Parents/Carers and other interested parties

10 September 2012

Dear Consultee

Proposal to Expand Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary School

Lincolnshire County Council is commencing a consultation process on the proposal to permanently expand Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary School, Anne Road, Sutton Bridge, Spalding PE12 9TB with an implementation date of September 2013.

It is the Local Authority's (LA) statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places to accommodate all pupils of statutory school age in Lincolnshire. The LA believes that this proposal is the best available option to address the expected shortage of Primary Reception school places in Sutton Bridge to ensure that local children are able to go to their local school. It is important that the LA gather and consider all views on this proposal prior to making a decision on how to proceed.

The school have admitted above the usual intake of 30 to provide 45 Reception places for September 2012 by bringing a former classroom back into use within their existing accommodation. This proposal being consulted on is to permanently expand the school to be able to take up to 45 children for all future intakes by building additional classrooms and facilities. The following information outlines the reasons for the proposal and explains why there is a need to expand this school and how the expansion can benefit the children and the community.

Reasons for the Proposal to Expand Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary School

National birth rates, mostly concentrated in more urban areas, have been steadily rising in recent years. This increased birth rate, combined in some areas with inward migration and housing development, is now starting to have an impact at primary school age putting significant pressure on primary schools across the country where there is a shortage of Reception places. The Sutton Bridge community will experience a shortage of available places if capacity at the local school is not increased.

NHS birth data for the Sutton Bridge area shows that on average over the next 4 years the number of children that will be requiring a primary school place is up to 15 more each year than it has been for the last 7 years. There is expected to be a long term requirement for more places. A permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children to avoid overcrowding and/or transporting 4 year old children to alternative schools outside of their local community.

Having additional classes and more children on roll at the school will also have financial benefits for the school. This may potentially provide the opportunity to enhance teaching provision and career opportunities for staff which in turn will benefit the learning experience of the children.

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) for each year group is 30. This proposal is to expand the existing capacity based on the PAN at Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary School from 210 to 315. This will increase the PAN from 30 to 45 initially only for the Reception intake in 2013 with the PAN for all other years remaining at 30. The increased intake to 45 will then be phased in with each subsequent intake up to 2018 to help ensure that pupil numbers at other local schools are maintained. It will also allow the school to effectively manage staffing and teaching structures.

Following statutory consultation, if the expansion proposal is approved, it is proposed that building work to add necessary additional accommodation will begin during the academic year 2012/13 (subject to planning permission being granted) and will be completed in readiness for the start of term in September 2013. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making the best use of school holidays where possible.

Please note that the planning application process is dealt with and consulted on separately.

Have your say

If you wish to comment on this proposal then please return the response form by 5.00pm on 8th October 2012 using the contact details provided. If you would like to discuss this further before responding to the proposal then LA officers will be holding pre-booked consultation drop in sessions at the school on 19th September between 12pm and 6.30pm. Please contact Mary Hunt, School Administrator, on 01406 350205 to arrange an appointment.

If you have any queries regarding the proposal or the consultation process please do not hesitate to contact the Property and Technology Management team (contact details are confirmed on the response form).

If you would like further information or would like to comment on this proposal then please return the attached form, email provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk or write to Property & Technology Management, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Lincoln LN1 1YQ by 5.00pm on 8th October 2012.

Copies of all documents related to this proposal, including an electronic version of the feedback form, can be found online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning under "Current Consultations". Hard copies are also available on request.

Yours sincerely



Matt Clayton
School Organisation Planning Manager
Property and Technology Management